

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**Nashville, Tennessee**

**November 21, 2003**

**IN RE:**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S  
TRIENNIAL REVIEW ORDER – 9  
MONTH PROCEEDING – SWITCHING**

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**DOCKET NO.  
03-00491**

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**ORDER ADOPTING PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

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This docket is before the Hearing Officer for consideration of various proposed protective orders filed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("CAPD").

On October 27, 2003, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") filed a proposed *Protective Order*. In the cover letter, BellSouth explained that it had provided copies of the proposed *Protective Order* to the parties of record and, with the exception of the CAPD, no party opposed the proposed *Protective Order* or provided substantive comments on the proposed *Protective Order*. As to the CAPD, BellSouth explained that the CAPD had proposed certain revisions and that BellSouth and the Competitive Carriers of the South, Inc. ("CompSouth")<sup>1</sup> would discuss the revisions with the CAPD and notify the Authority by October

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<sup>1</sup> CompSouth includes the following telecommunications providers: Access Integrated Networks, Inc.; Access Point, Inc.; MCI; Birch Telecom; Covad Communications Company; Cinergy Communications Company; AT&T; NewSouth Communications, Corp.; Talk America; Nuvox Communications, Inc.; ITC^DeltaCom; Xspedius Communications; Momentum Business Solutions; Cinergy Communications Company; Network Telephone Corp.; KMC Telecom; Z-Tel Communications, Inc.; and IDS Telecom LLC.

31, 2003 if the parties reached an agreement. No such notice was filed.

In order to assess the support for the proposed *Protective Order*, the Hearing Officer issued a *Notice of Filing* on November 12, 2003 directing interested parties to file objections to the proposed *Protective Order* by Monday, November 17, 2003.

On November 17, 2003, BellSouth filed a revised, proposed *Protective Order*, including a red-lined version, and explained that it and the CAPD agreed to the revised, proposed *Protective Order* and that it was sending copies of the revised, proposed *Protective Order* to the other parties. Also on November 17, 2003, the CAPD filed with the Authority and served on all parties of record a *Status Report of the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General* stating that it and BellSouth agreed to the revised, proposed *Protective Order*. Attached to the status report was a copy of the revised, proposed *Protective Order*.


In order to assess all parties' support for the revised, proposed *Protective Order*, the Hearing Officer issued a *Notice of Filing* on November 18, 2003 directing parties to file objections to the revised, proposed *Protective Order* by Thursday, November 20, 2003. The Hearing Officer further stated that the failure to file objections to the revised, proposed *Protective Order* will be considered as support for the entering of the revised, proposed *Protective Order* by the Hearing Officer.

On November 19, 2003, BellSouth filed a corrected red-lined version of the revised, proposed *Protective Order* it filed on November 17, 2003. BellSouth indicated that although its November 17<sup>th</sup> filing was not accurate, the filing submitted by the CAPD on that same date correctly reflected the agreement between BellSouth and the CAPD.

To date, no party has objected to the revised, proposed *Protective Order*. Based on this fact and the November 18, 2003 *Notice of Filing*, the Hearing Officer concludes that all parties of record support the adoption of the November 17, 2003 revised, proposed *Protective Order*.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The revised, proposed *Protective Order* included in the November 17, 2003 *Status Report of the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General* and attached hereto is adopted and incorporated into this Order as if fully rewritten herein.

  
Ron Jones, Director *with permission*  
As Hearing Officer<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> During the September 22, 2003 Authority Conference, a panel of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority consisting of Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate and Directors Pat Miller and Ron Jones unanimously voted to appoint Director Ron Jones as the Hearing Officer to prepare the switching portion of this case for a hearing by the panel. Transcript of Proceedings, Sept. 22, 2003, pp. 73-75 (Authority Conference).

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re:       *Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial  
Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) - Switching*

Docket No. 03-00491

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

To expedite the flow of filings, exhibits and other materials, and to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes as to the confidentiality of such material, adequately protect material entitled to be kept confidential and to ensure that protection is afforded only to material so entitled; the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") hereby orders that:

1. For the purpose of this Protective Order (the "Order"), proprietary or confidential information, hereinafter referred to as "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" shall mean documents and information in whatever form which the producing party in good faith deems to contain or constitute trade secrets, confidential commercial information, confidential research, development, financial statements or other commercially sensitive information, and which has been so designated by the producing party. A "producing party" is defined as the party creating the confidential information as well as the party having actual physical possession of information produced pursuant to this Order. All summaries, notes, extracts, compilations or other direct or indirect reproduction from or of any protected materials, shall be entitled to protection under this Order, and shall be stored, protected and maintained at the law offices of parties' counsel of record until such time that said material shall be returned, as provided for in paragraph 16. Documents containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION shall be specifically marked as confidential on

the cover. Any document so designated shall be handled in accordance with this Order. The provisions of any document containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION may be challenged under Paragraph 11 of this Order.

2. Any individual or company subject to this Order, including producing parties or persons reviewing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, shall act in good faith in discharging their obligations hereunder. Parties or nonparties subject to this Order shall include parties which are allowed by the TRA to intervene subsequent to the date of entry of this Protective Order.

3. Except as limited by paragraph 22 of this Order, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION shall be used only for purposes of this proceeding and shall be disclosed only to the following persons:

- (a) counsel of record for the parties in this proceeding and any legal support personnel (e.g., paralegals and clerical employees) acting at the direction of counsel actively engaged in assisting counsel of record in this and the designated related proceeding;
- (b) other employees, officers, or directors of a party, who are not engaged in strategic or competitive decision making, including, but not limited to, the sale or marketing or pricing of any products or services on behalf of the receiving party;
- (c) TRA Directors and members of the staff of the TRA;
- (d) The Tennessee Attorney General and staff.

Under no circumstances shall any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION or copies therefore be disclosed to or discussed with anyone associated with the marketing of services in competition with the products, goods or services of the producing party. Counsel for the parties are expressly prohibited from disclosing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION produced

by another party to their respective clients, or to any other person or entity that does not have a need to know for purpose of preparing for or participating in this proceeding. Whenever an individual, other than the persons described in Section 3 (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, is designated to have access, then notice (by sending a copy of the executed affidavit) must be given to adversary counsel prior to the access being given to that individual and that individual, prior to seeing the material, must execute an affidavit that the information will not be disclosed and will not be used other than in this proceeding.

4. Prior to disclosure of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION to any employee or associate counsel for a party, officer or director of the parties, including any counsel representing the party who is to receive the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, counsel shall provide a copy of this Order to the recipient employee or associate counsel who shall be bound by the terms of this Order.

5. If any party or non-party subject to this Order inadvertently fails to designate documents as CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the provisions of this Order when producing such documents, such failure shall not constitute a waiver of confidentiality; provided the party or non-party who has produced the document shall notify the recipient of the document in writing within five (5) days of discovery of such inadvertent failure to designate the document as CONFIDENTIAL. At that time, the recipients will immediately treat the subject document as CONFIDENTIAL. An inadvertent failure to designate a document as CONFIDENTIAL shall not, in any way, affect the TRA's determination as to whether the document is entitled to CONFIDENTIAL status.

6. If any party or non-party subject to this Order inadvertently fails to designate

documents as CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the provisions of this Order when producing such documents and such failure is not discovered in time to provide five (5) day notification to the recipient of the confidential nature of the documents referenced in the paragraph above, the failure shall not constitute a waiver of confidentiality and a party by written motion or by oral motion at a Pre-Hearing Conference called for the purpose or at the Hearing on the merits may request designation of such documents as CONFIDENTIAL, and if the motion is granted by the Pre-Hearing Officer, Administrative Law Judge, or the Authority, the recipients shall immediately treat the subject documents as CONFIDENTIAL. The Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Pre-Hearing Officer or Administrative Law Judge may also, at his or her discretion, either before or during the Pre-Hearing Conference or hearing on the merits of the case, allow information to be designated CONFIDENTIAL and treated as such in accordance with the terms of this Order.

7. Any papers filed in this proceeding that contain, quote, paraphrase, compile or otherwise disclose documents covered by the terms of this Order, or any information contained therein, shall be filed and maintained in the TRA Docket Room in sealed envelopes marked CONFIDENTIAL and labeled to reflect the style of this proceeding, the docket number, the contents of the envelope sufficient to identify its subject matter, and this Protective Order. Such envelopes shall be maintained in a locked filing cabinet. The envelopes shall not be opened or their contents reviewed by anyone except upon order of the TRA, Pre-Hearing Officer, or Administrative Law Judge after due notice to counsel of record. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Directors and the Staff of the TRA may review

any paper filed as CONFIDENTIAL without obtaining an order of the TRA, Pre-Hearing Officer or Administrative Law Judge, provided the Directors and Staff maintain the confidentiality of the paper in accordance with the terms of this Order.

8. Documents, information and testimony designated as CONFIDENTIAL, in accordance with this Order, may be disclosed in testimony at the hearing of this proceeding and offered into evidence used in any hearing related to this action, subject to the Tennessee Rules of Evidence and to such future orders as the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge may enter. Any party intending to use documents, information, or testimony designated CONFIDENTIAL shall inform the producing party and the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge, prior to the hearing on the merits of the case, of the proposed use; and shall advise the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge, and the producing party before use of such information during cross-examination so that appropriate measures can be taken by the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge, and/or requested by the producing party in order to protect the confidential nature of the information.

9. Except for documents filed in the TRA Docket Room, all documents covered by the terms of this Order that are disclosed to the requesting party shall be maintained separately in files marked CONFIDENTIAL and labeled with reference to this Order at the offices of the requesting party's counsel of record and returned to the producing party pursuant to Paragraph 16 of this Order.

10. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing any party from continuing to use and disclose any information (a) that is in the public domain, or (b) that subsequently



becomes part of the public domain through no act of such party, or (c) that is disclosed to it by a third party, where said disclosure does not itself violate any contractual or legal obligation, or (d) that is independently developed by a party, or (e) that is known or used by it prior to this proceeding. The burden of establishing the existence of (a) through (e) shall be upon the party attempting to use or disclose such information.

11. Any party may contest the designation of any document or information as CONFIDENTIAL by applying to the TRA, Pre-Hearing Officer, Administrative Law Judge or the courts, as appropriate, for a ruling that the documents information, or testimony should not be so treated. All documents, information and testimony designated as CONFIDENTIAL, however, shall be maintained as such until the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer, the Administrative Law Judge, or a court orders otherwise. A Motion to contest must be filed not later than ten (10) days prior to the Hearing on the Merits. Any Reply from the Company seeking to protect the status of their CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION must be received not later than five (5) days prior to the Hearing on the Merits and shall be presented to the Authority at the Hearing on the merits for a ruling.

12. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from asserting any objection to discovery other than an objection based upon grounds of confidentiality.

13. Non-party witnesses, including entities responding to subpoenas, data requests or other third party discovery propounded by parties or the TRA, shall be entitled to invoke the provisions of this Order by designating information disclosed or documents produced for use in this action as CONFIDENTIAL in which event the provisions of this Order shall govern the disclosure of information or documents provided by the non-party

witness. A non-party witness' designation of information as confidential may be challenged under Paragraph 11 of this Order.

14. No person authorized under the terms herein to receive access to documents, information, or testimony designated as CONFIDENTIAL shall be granted access until such person has complied with the requirements set forth in paragraph 4 of this Order.

15. Any person to whom disclosure or inspection is made in violation of this Order shall be bound by the terms of this Order.

16. Upon an order becoming final in this proceeding or any appeals resulting from such an order, all the filings, exhibits and other materials and information designated CONFIDENTIAL and all copies thereof shall be returned by parties and nonparties who received CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION to counsel for the party who produced (or originally created) the filings, exhibits and other materials, within fifteen (15) days. Subject to the requirements of Section 7 above, the TRA may retain copies of information designed as CONFIDENTIAL. Counsel who received the filings, exhibits and other materials shall certify to counsel for the producing party that all the filings, exhibits and other materials, plus all copies or extracts from the filings, exhibits and other materials and all copies of the extracts from the filings, exhibits and other materials thereof have been delivered to counsel for the producing party. Upon request, the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General shall notify the producing party of its intent to destroy, return or maintain as CONFIDENTIAL the filings, exhibits and other materials and all copies of the extracts from the filings, exhibits and other materials thereof.

17. After termination of this proceeding, the provisions of this Order relating to the secrecy and confidential nature of CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, information and testimony shall continue to be binding upon parties herein and their officers, employers, employees, agents, and/or others for five years unless this Order is vacated or modified.

18. Nothing herein shall prevent entry of a subsequent order, upon an appropriate showing, requiring that any documents, information or testimony designated as CONFIDENTIAL shall receive protection other than that provided herein.

19. The Attorney General has authority to enter into non-disclosure agreements pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118.

20. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit or expand the statutory authority of the Attorney General or the Consumer Advocate Division as expressed in *T.C.A. § 10-7-504* titled *Confidential Records* and *T.C.A. § 65-4-118* titled *Consumer Advocate Division*.

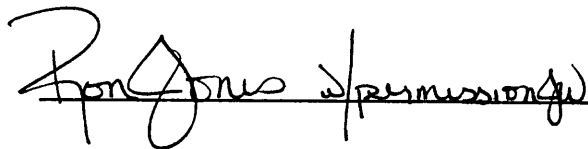
21. The obligations of the Attorney General under this Order are further subject to all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and rules, provided however, the Attorney General shall not disclose CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION unless required by federal or state law. In the event that the Attorney General is served with a subpoena, public records, freedom of information act request, or other request that calls for the production of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION by the producing party, the Attorney General, will notify the producing party by notifying the undersigned of the existence of the subpoena, public records request, FOIA request, or other request, at least ten (10) business days before responding to the request, as long as the Attorney General is able to respond to the request within a reasonable time. The Attorney General may elect to wait

to produce such information as allowed by state law in order to provide the producing party an opportunity to challenge said subpoena or request or to make arrangements to preserve the confidentiality of the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION that is subject to such request.

22. A primary purpose of this Protective Order is to allow the Attorney General, TRA and parties access to information that may be relevant in this proceeding. However, nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed to limit the powers of the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter to investigate or prosecute any matter through the use of the Confidential Information, which the Attorney General is otherwise empowered to investigate or prosecute.

23. All the filings, exhibits and other materials and information designated CONFIDENTIAL and all copies thereof received by the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General from the producing party shall be handled in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 10-7-508 and 10-7-509 and all other applicable state and federal laws.

24. Nothing in this Order is intended to restrict or alter federal or state laws, regulations or rules.

 Ron Jones / permission given

APPROVED FOR ENTRY

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Guy M. Hicks  
Attorney for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

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Jon E. Hastings  
Attorney for Brooks Fiber  
Communications of Tennessee and  
MCI metro Access Transmission  
Services

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James Wright  
Attorney for United Telephone-Southeast and  
Sprint Communications Corp.

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Charles Welch  
Attorney for Time Warner  
Communications of the MidSouth, LLP

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Joe Shirley  
Attorney for Consumer Advocate and  
Protection Division, Attorney General's Office  
of the State of Tennessee

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R. Dale Grimes  
Attorney for TDS Telecom (Concord  
Telephone Exchange, Inc.; Humphreys  
County Telephone Company; Tennessee  
Telephone Company, Inc.; and Tellico  
Telephone Company)

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Nanette S. Edwards  
Attorney for ITC^DeltaCom Communications,  
Inc.

---

Mark W. Smith  
Attorney for Electric Power Board of  
Chattanooga

---

H. LaDon Baltimore

---

Carol Kuhnow  
Atty for Qwest Communications, Inc.

---

Henry Walker

Attorney for AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc.; ITC^DeltaCom Communications of the South Central States, Inc.; DEICA Communications, Inc. d/b/a Covad Communications Company.; NewSouth Communications Corp. and Competitive Carriers of the Southeast (Access Integrated Networks, Inc.; AT&T;

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Guilford Thornton

Attorney for Citizens Communications

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Martha Ross-Bain

Attorney for AT&T Communications of the

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